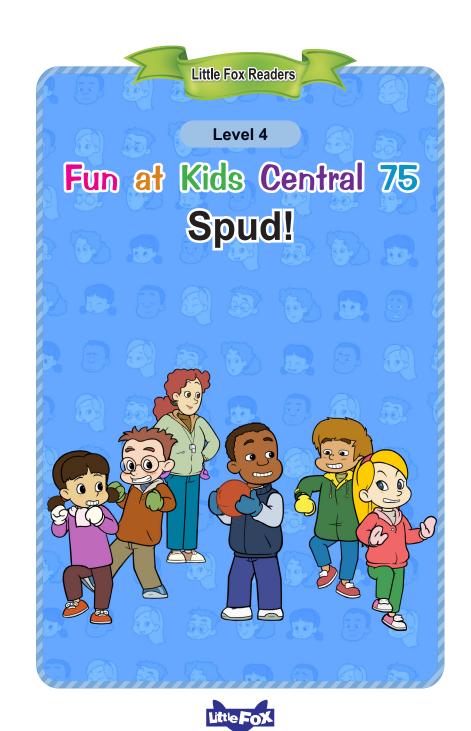


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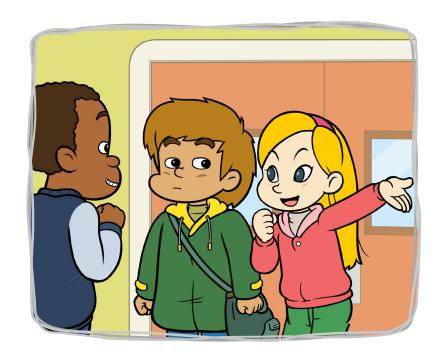
## Fun at Kids Central 75 Spud!



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E than hurried into the gym.

"Guess what!" Bobby said. "We're going outside today."

"It's sunny and warm," Izzie said.

"That stinks," Ethan mumbled.

"Huh?" Jason said. Everybody was surprised. Ethan was from California, and he loved warm weather.



Ethan sighed. "I'm still saving up to buy a snowboard. But all the snow has melted."

"Winter's not over yet," Izzie said. "Maybe it will snow again."

"Time to go outside," Miss Shelly called.

The kids followed the teacher out to the blacktop. She was holding a soft ball.

"What are we playing?" Jason asked.



"Spud," Miss Shelly said.

"What's that?" Nina asked.

"It's a fun game," Bobby said.

"First, everyone needs a number," Miss Shelly said. "Let's count off."

"One!"

"Two!"

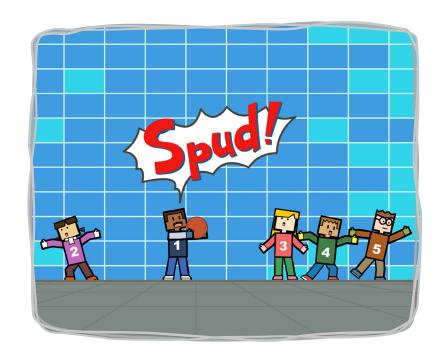
"Three!"



"Four!"

"Five!"

Miss Shelly gave the ball to Ethan. "You'll throw the ball up in the air. As you do that, call out someone's number." She looked at the others. "If you hear your number, run to catch the ball. Catch it and yell 'spud."



"What does everyone else do?" Izzie asked.

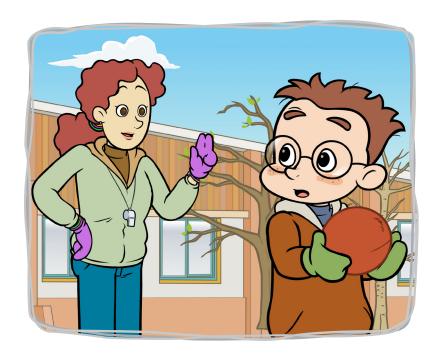
"You have to freeze when you hear 'spud," Bobby said.

Izzie nodded. "Let's play!"

Everyone started running around Ethan.

He threw the ball into the air. "Five!"

"That's me!" Jason cried. He caught the



ball and yelled, "Spud." Everyone froze.

"Jason, take three giant steps toward any player. Then throw the ball," Miss Shelly said.

Jason grinned. "Can I throw it at Bobby?"

Bobby grinned back. "If you miss me, or I catch it, you get an *S*."



"Once you get *S*, *P*, *U*, *D*, you're out of the game," Miss Shelly said.

Jason took three steps and threw the ball. Bobby caught it. "S for Jason!"

Everyone ran around until Bobby threw the ball. "Two!"

That was Nina's number. She caught the ball and called, "Spud." Then she



threw it at Ethan, but she missed him.

"S for me!" Nina said. "Your turn to throw, Ethan."

When it was Bobby's turn to throw again, he yelled, "Thirteen!"

"Huh?" Everyone froze.

Bobby laughed. "Thirteen is a 'ghost' number. That means everyone runs for the



ball and touches it. The last one to reach the ball gets a letter."

Ethan was the first player to get *S*, *P*, *U*, *D*. He sat on a bench. When Izzie got out next, she headed toward Ethan. Then she spotted something in the grass. "Whoa! Five dollars!"

Izzie and Ethan showed the money to



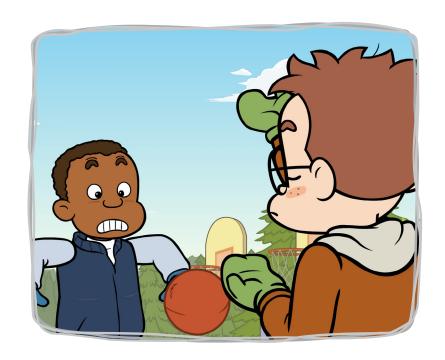
Miss Shelly.

"Take it to the office," Miss Shelly said.
"If no one has reported losing it, you can keep it, Izzie."

"I'll give it to Ethan," Izzie said. "For his snowboard."

Ethan grinned. "Thanks, Izzie!"

Soon only Jason and Bobby were left in



the game. Jason was the thrower. "Ninety-nine!"

Bobby froze.

Jason laughed. "Ghost number, Bobby! You were supposed to run for the ball!"

"Oops!" Bobby groaned. "You win."

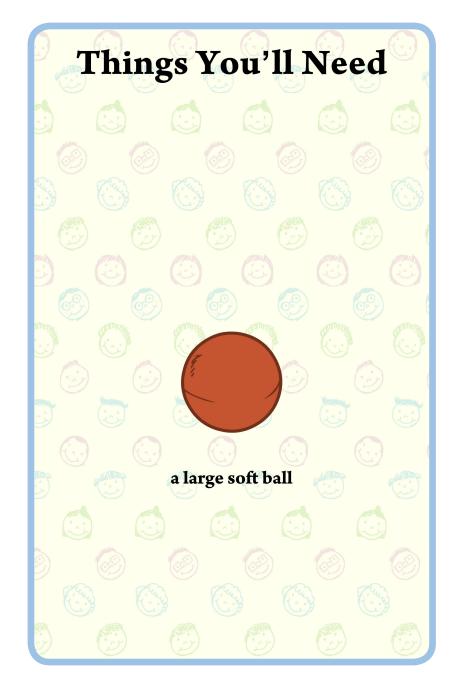
Everyone gave Jason a high five. On the way back inside, Ethan noticed some



clouds. A chilly breeze whipped the trees.

"Hmm," Ethan thought. "Maybe winter

isn't over yet."



## Do It Yourself



1) Gather players and count off, so that everyone has a number. Choose one player to be the first thrower.



2) While other players run around, the thrower tosses the ball into the air. The thrower calls out another player's number.



3) That player runs to catch the ball and calls "Spud." As soon as Spud is called, the other players must freeze.



4) The player with the ball takes three giant steps toward another player and throws the ball. That player tries to catch it.



5) The player with the ball takes three giant steps toward another player and throws the ball. That player tries to catch it.



6) Throwers can use a ghost number. If a ghost number is called, all players run to touch the ball. The last player to reach it gets a letter.



7) Players are out of the game when they have *S, P, U, D.* The winner is the last remaining player.